

# *Eucalyptus brevipes*

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Heterostemones

## Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus brevipes*** Brooker, *Nuytsia* 5: 365 (1986).



T: ca 0.2 km S of Cunderin Hill, W.A., 20 July 1983, *M.I.H. Brooker 8242*; holo: PERTH; iso: AD, CANB, K, MEL, NSW.

## Description

**Mallee** to 5 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** firm, fibrous to coarsely flaky, rough over part or all of trunk and often extending to ca 5 cm diameter branches, smooth above grey and bronze to salmon-pink.

**Branchlets** lacking oil glands in the pith.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems rounded in cross-section; juvenile leaves shortly to obscurely petiolate, alternate, linear to narrowly lanceolate, 5–8 cm long, 0.7–1.5 cm wide, dull, green.

**Adult leaves** held erect and more or less stiff, alternate, petioles 0.4–1 cm long; blade linear to narrowly elliptical or narrowly lanceolate, (6.3)7–12.5 cm long, 0.7–1 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex finely pointed and sometimes hooked, side-veins very acute, reticulation usually sparse to moderate, intramarginal vein remote from margin, oil glands large, both round island and irregular intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.2–0.6 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicels 0.2–0.4 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid to pyriform ((0.4)0.7–0.8 cm long, 0.3–0.5 cm wide), scar present (outer operculum shed early), operculum conical or slightly beaked (0.2–0.3 cm long), outer staminodes (staminal filaments without anthers) ascending and then flexed tangentially, then inflexed, inner stamens inflexed and much shorter with the oblong-reniform to more or less spherical anthers scarcely versatile, sub-dorsifixed, dehiscent by subterminal pores, style long and straight, narrowed basally, stigma rounded, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long), cylindrical to more or less barrel-shaped, 0.6–0.7 cm long, 0.4–0.7 cm wide, disc descending obliquely or vertically, valves 3 or 4, enclosed.

**Seeds** tan, 0.8–2 mm long, flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface smooth, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10):** cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems rounded in cross-section; leaves sessile to subsessile, opposite for 4 or 5 nodes then alternate and shortly petiolate, linear to narrowly lanceolate, 5–8.5 cm long, 0.7–1 cm wide, dull, grey-green.

## Flowering Time

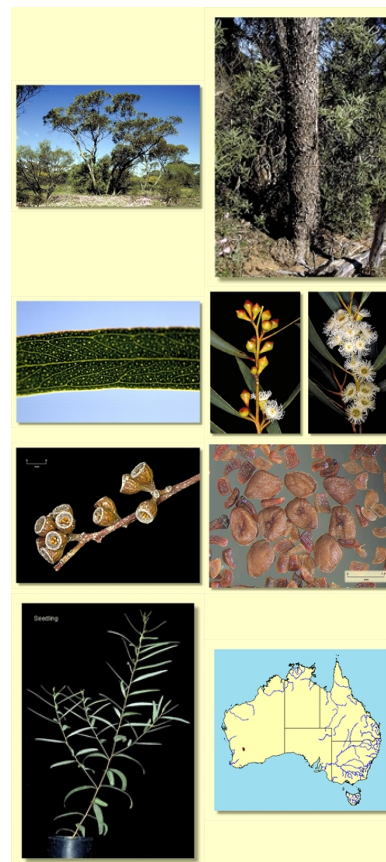
Flowering has been recorded in July, August and September.

## Notes

A mallee endemic to Western Australia, of very restricted distribution in the central wheatbelt between Mukinbudin, Cunderin Hill and Chiddarcooping Rock. The bark is rough and the adult leaves held stiffly erect, and at first slightly glossy maturing very glossy green.

*Eucalyptus brevipes* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Destitutae* because buds have two opercula, cotyledons are Y-shaped and branchlets lack oil glands in the pith. Within this subsection *E. brevipes* is one of seven closely related species that form series *Heterostemones*. This series is characterised by the barren outer stamens that are conspicuously twisted and spreading in flower and the much shorter fertile inner stamens that are held erect. Species in this group also have narrow fruit with a descending disc and enclosed valves while the leaves have side-veins quite acute at the base of the lamina and usually sparse reticulation.

*E. brevipes* is distinguished from its closest relative *E. gracilis* by having bud clusters on a shorter peduncle, buds on short tapering pedicels and with conical to beaked opercula. Both these species have narrowly elliptical-lanceolate seedling and juvenile leaves. *E. yilgarnensis*, which is also closely related to *E. brevipes* and occurs in the same geographical area, differs in having slenderly pedicellate buds with rounded opercula, smaller fruit and elliptical to ovate-lanceolate juvenile leaves. Another related species is *E. celastroides* subsp.



*virella*, which has buds that are square basally and have a conical operculum and urceolate fruit. *E. celastroides* subsp. *celastroides* differs further in having a grey-green to glaucous crown. The remaining species in series *Heterostemones*, *E. calycogona*, *E. proluxa* and *E. quadrans*, all have buds and fruit square in cross-section and should never be confused with *E. brevipes*.

*Eucalyptus brevipes* is listed as "Endangered" under the Australian Government *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. Further information may be found at this web address:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus brevipes*: Latin *brevis*, short and *pes*, foot, referring to the pedicel.

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